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GENERAL NOTES

The Warner and Swasey Observatory of the Case School of Applied Science.—Mr. Swasey and Mr. Warner, founders of the well-known firm, The Warner & Swasey Company, have constructed and presented to the Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio, a well-equipped observatory. The observatory is admirably located near the eastern edge of the city on a small hill just off Euclid Avenue in a fine residential section. An illustration of the new observatory accompanies this note.

The dome contains a 12-inch equatorial telescope, the objective by Brashear and the mounting by The Warner & Swasey Company. There are three transit instruments, one of them resembling the form used in the work of the International Latitude Association. There are the usual auxiliary instruments, such as clock, chronograph, etc.; a wing on the main floor contains an excellent library; there are photographic rooms in the basement; the building also contains living quarters for the astronomer. The architectural features of the building have been given careful consideration and the materials and construction are of the highest quality.

The Warner & Swasey Observatory was dedicated on October 12, 1920. Appropriate addresses were made by Mr. Swasey, who emphasized the intimate relationships of The Warner & Swasey Company with the many astronomers of the world whom they had supplied with instruments; by Mr. Warner, a trustee of the Case School of Applied Science, in presenting the keys to President Howe of the Case School; by President Charles S. Howe, who spoke in appreciation of the gift and of its purposes; by Director W. W. Campbell of the Lick Observatory, who delivered a formal address on "The Daily Influences of Astronomy"; and finally by Professor D. T. Wilson, of the Case School, astronomer in charge of the observatory, concerning the proposed activities of the new institution.

It is intended that the Warner & Swasey Observatory shall meet the technical needs of the Case School, in the training of engineers, and in the general education of the students; that it shall be available for the advancement of astronomical knowledge in the community; and that a share of its resources shall be applied to research.

The exercises were largely attended by professors and teachers of astronomy and the related sciences located in Ohio and neighboring states.

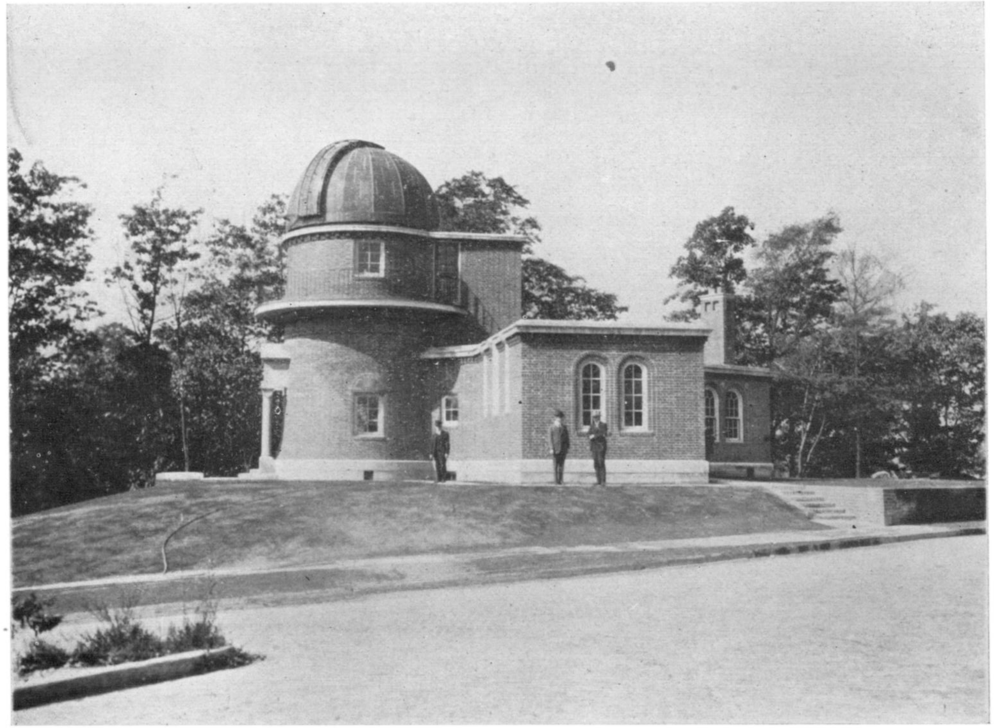

PLATE XI

The Warner and Swasey Observatory, of the Case School

Some Astronomical Howlers.—In a large class in Elementary Astronomy there will be some who have no particular interest in it and consequently obtain confused notions of various parts of the subject. The frantic grasping at straws by these is evidenced in the answers they give in examinations. As these peculiar answers may afford some amusement to the readers of these PUBLICATIONS I have extracted some of them.

From Answers to Questions on Variation of Latitude.

The pole does not always rest in the same place but describes an irregular path about the place where it ought to be.

Latitude is a variable quantity. It increases as you approach the north pole, and decreases as you leave it.

No one latitude on the Earth can be said to be a fixed point.

Küstner of Bonn proved that a disturbance such as an earthquake would tend to throw the pole out of rigidity.

From Answers to Questions on Time.

True solar time is variable to such an extent that we could never keep modern appointments by it.

Mean solar time is gotten by observing the sidereal time when the equator and ecliptic cross, for at this time sidereal and mean time are the same.

From Answers to Questions on Comets.

Comets are great volumes of nothing.

Comets occur in regular ellipses.

A comet is a huge body of substance supposed to be gas whose density is almost negligent.

A comet is nearer a perfect vacuum than any physic laboratory can make it.

Comets seem to shoot from nowhere and go out again into space.

Miscellaneous.

One of the six elements of an orbit is the enclination of eccentricity to horizontal plane.

The asteroids are small planets which seem to have been caused by a large planet being spoiled in the making.

Altitude may be found by using a sexton.

More solar eclipses happen of the Sun than of the Moon.

Bode's Law fails to comply with *Neptune.*

The Earth, upon which we live and spend most of our time is—

Astronomy certainly shows students the absolute nothingness of the Earth.

Neptune is one of the planets to be discovered last.

When a heavier ray of light hits a lighter ray it is moved from its straight path or refracted.

Semi-diameter is the distance of the Sun from one end to the middle.

The ecliptic is the plane of the ellipse that the Sun prescribes in his annual trip around the Earth.

By its appearance at least, the Moon seemed to vindicate the cheese theory.

Students' Observatory, R. T. CRAWFORD.
Berkeley, California.

Gifts to the Society.—Thru the courtesy of Mr. W. A. Clark, Jr., and Dr. Mars F. Baumgardt, the Society has received a large-scale framed photograph of the Moon made from a negative taken with the great Hooker reflecting telescope on Mount Wilson and a radium map of the constellation of *Orion.*

In recording our thanks for the gifts we desire also to call attention to the Clark Observatory, erected on the residence grounds of Mr. W. A. Clark, Jr., at Los Angeles. It is among the finest private astronomical observatories in the country and has an unusual equipment. An illustrated account of it is published by Dr. Baumgardt, the director, in the *Bulletin* of the Southern California Academy of Sciences for July, 1919. In addition to a 6-inch refractor, 8-inch Brashear reflector, coelostat with 10-inch plane mirror, spectroscope and other auxiliaries, and smaller portable telescopes and binoculars, the equipment includes a 2-inch refractor with quartz lens, three stereopticons, a moving-picture machine, elaborate models of the Moon and the planets, globes, photographs, 3000 feet of astronomical motion-picture film, 30 mechanical and more than 1300 ordinary lantern slides from photographs taken at the leading American observatories. Perhaps the most unique feature of the equipment is a series of star maps on which the stars are made luminous by the action of alpha-particles of radium upon a base of sulfide of zinc.

The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the American Astronomical Society[1]—This meeting, held on September 1 to 4, 1920, at Smith College, Northampton, and Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley,

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[1] Reports of this meeting reached the editors too late for insertion in our October issue.

Massachusetts, on the joint invitation of the directors of the two observatories, Miss Harriet W. Bigelow and Miss Anne S. Young, was notable as being the first to be held at a woman's college. Perfect weather conditions and the hostesses' well-planned social program made it also one of the most enjoyable of the Society's meetings. It was appropriate that the attendance should be the largest in the history of the Society.

Altho the *list* of papers was a long one, the papers themselves were, for the most part, commendably short, and time was available for the discussion of many of them. Abstracts will be printed, as usual, in *Popular Astronomy*. At the business meeting reports of committees were received, officers elected, new members admitted and resolutions adopted to meet with the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Chicago in December, 1920.

Sir Frank Watson Dyson, Astronomer Royal, Greenwich Observatory, England, was elected an honorary member of the Society. The Society has only one other living honorary member, Professor J. C. Kapteyn, of Groningen, Holland.

Obituary Notices.—On other pages of the present number will be found notices of the life-work of two American astronomers who have died during the present year. *Science*, for November 5, records the death of another American astronomer, Arthur Searle, Phillips professor emeritus of astronomy at Harvard University, who died at his home in Cambridge, on October 23. His active connection with the Harvard College Observatory extended over the forty-three years from 1869 to 1912, and the *Annals* of the Observatory contain many papers by him, relating chiefly to photometric and meridian circle observations. His largest piece of work was the catalog of 8337 stars between declination $-9^\circ 50'$ and $-14^\circ 10'$ which constitutes one part of the great international catalog of stars to the 9.0 magnitude known as the *Astronomische Gesellschaft Zone Catalogue.*

We regret to have to record also the death, in August of this year, of two prominent European astronomers—Hermann Struve on August 12 and Giovanni Celoria on August 17.

Hermann Struve entered upon his active astronomical career in 1883 by becoming an assistant in the Pulkowa Observatory, of which his father, Otto Struve, was director, and soon gave evidence of the powers that led to his call, in 1895, to the directorship of the

Königsberg Observatory, and to his succession to the directorship of the Berlin Observatory upon the retirement of Wilhelm Foerster in 1904. It was under his direction and largely upon his initiative that the new Berlin-Babelsberg Observatory—one of the best appointed in Europe—was built.

Struve began to observe the satellites of *Saturn* in 1883, and it is for his observations of these bodies and for his theoretical studies of their motions and of those of the satellites of *Uranus*, *Mars*, and *Neptune* that he is best known.

A sympathetic sketch of his life by Professor Courvoisier is printed in Number 5067 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*.

Giovanni Celoria began his astronomical career as assistant in the Milan (di Brera) Observatory under Schiaparelli nearly sixty years ago and continued in his allegiance to that institution to the time of his death, serving as assistant astronomer, astronomer, and finally as director. He had to his credit a long list of papers dealing with measures and orbits of comets, minor planets, and double stars.

It is worthy of record here that Mr. James Hartness, of Springfield, Vermont, the designer of the Hartness Turret Telescope, and an enthusiastic student of astronomy, as well as a prominent engineer and manufacturer, has been elected governor of the state of Vermont.

To Double-Star Observers.—In accordance with the wishes of my friend, the late Professor Eric Doolittle, and my promise made to him in 1919, I have undertaken the completion of the Extension to Burnham's *General Catalogue of Double Stars* upon which he had been engaged since 1913 when Professor Burnham turned over to him the data he had collected. This arrangement has Professor Burnham's cordial approval.

The work should be published at the earliest practicable date and I have Director Campbell's assurance of such assistance on the part of the Lick Observatory as may be needed to complete the manuscript for the printer.

I respectfully request all double star observers to cooperate by sending me copies of their papers printed in the present year as well as of those which they publish later.

Mount Hamilton, California. ROBERT G. AITKEN.

The Adolfo Stahl Lectures in Astronomy.—The holiday season is at hand and our readers are doubtless giving thought to the selection of gifts for friends. We respectfully suggest that a copy of the *Adolfo Stahl Lectures* would be appreciated by any friend having an interest in astronomy.

The volume continues to meet with the commendation of readers and reviewers. As evidence, we refer to M. Jean Bosler's review in the *Revue générale des Sciences*, **31**, 225, 1920, and venture to quote a sentence or two from a personal letter recently received by one of the contributors to the volume.

"Shortly before I left the U. S. A. on my recent visit, I bought a copy of the *Adolfo Stahl Lectures* and I have just read [the lecture on] 'The Nebulae.' It was a revelation to me, and I realized how much out of date I have become during the last few years. . . . I find the *Adolfo Stahl Lectures* of the utmost value."

Application for copies should be addressed to Mr. D. S. Richardson, 709 Postal Telegraph Building, 22 Battery St., San Francisco, California.